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Prussia July 19. An egregious blunder is made farther on, p. 420; Bazaine capitulated October 27, not September 23, and the number of prisoners is understated.

The literary selections display a startling appearance towards the close. Apparently the principal work in English literature for several years was *King Solomon's Mines*. In American literature since the Civil War the actual list is as follows: Artemus Ward, Hay's poems, James's *Americans*, Howells's *Modern Instance*, Mark Twain's *Tramp Abroad*, Sheldon's *In His Steps*, and *Mr. Dooley*. It is to be feared that the sense of insecurity induced by these and similar vagaries of omission, selection, and accuracy, may outweigh even Lord Acton's commendatory note of introduction.

EDMUND K. ALDEN.

Saint Louis. By FREDERICK PERRY, M.A., Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford. [Heroes of the Nations Series.] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. viii, 303.)

THE reign of Louis IX. is of particular interest because of the coincident territorial growth and institutional development of France. But unless the proportions of the reign are exaggerated and the personality of the king endowed with a halo, which the sober-suited historian is not necessitated to observe, the reign offers few points of interest for the popular reader. St. Louis did not have the qualities that are considered typical of a hero. In view of the limitation of his subject, Mr. Perry has done well. He has written an accurate, though somewhat arid account of the reign of the King, and has carefully refrained from introducing any controversial element, even with the opportunities afforded by the Albigensian Crusade and Charles of Anjou. The judgment which probably will be challenged most is that Henry II. ever hoped "to overwhelm and swallow up his brother at Paris." Stubbs disavows such intention on his part. It is unfortunate, though perhaps it is necessary considering the "heroic" character of the series, that so much space (101 pp.) had to be devoted to Louis's crusades. It is a pity, too, that the young reader will not be able to carry away with him a more definite idea of the nature of the feudal régime. The stock anecdotes are reported, of course, as that of Enguerrand de Coucy. But a careful study of Beugnot's *Essai sur les Institutions de St. Louis*, if no other similar work, would have done much to have enlivened the pages. Mr. Perry is aware of the omission for he says: "It would not be within the scope of the present work to examine at length, or with an exact inquiry into details, the constitution of government in France during this period, its nature, changes, and development; to trace the steps by which royal authority was increased; to follow the growth of the King's courts, the spread of the King's justice, and the extension of his administrative powers." In view of Langlois's pronounced success in this very particular, however, in his *Saint Louis* (Bibliothèque des Écoles et des

Familles), the omission hardly seems to be justified. There is a slip of the pen on p. 68 where Brittany is referred to as a duchy although its ruler is correctly styled count. There are typographical errors in lines 4 and 17 on page v. The map would be better if the royal domain were distinguished from vassal territory; and it is impossible to study the geography of the Albigenian crusade. Beziers, Albi and Nismes are not indicated.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

Oliver Cromwell and the Rule of the Puritans in England. By CHARLES FIRTH, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford. [Heroes of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. xiii, 496.)

So many successful and even brilliant lives of Cromwell have been written of late years that Carlyle, could he revisit us, would cheerfully withdraw his tirade against Dryasdust, whose labors in this field only served to obscure his hero with "circumambient inanity and insanity." Among the best of these successful lives is the present volume by Mr. Firth. It is not only attractively written, but it is the product of rare scholarship and full knowledge. It is based in part on the author's extended article contributed in 1888 to the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Approximately the first half of the book follows that article closely, a testimonial to the solidity of the earlier work, but the author has expanded it and provided his subject with a proper background by weaving into his narrative a concise history of the period. This is a very great improvement, since Cromwell is one of those characters whose life is an epitome of the history of his time and cannot be understood apart from it. In the latter part of the book, the author breaks away from his article and treats his subject still more broadly. Mr. Firth has given proof in his published writings of a knowledge of various parts of this period which is little less than microscopic. It is a pleasure to observe that such knowledge is not incompatible with breadth of view. His generalizations are so concise, so accurate and so luminous that the book offers, as its title indicates, an adequate brief history of the period. Indeed, those who insist upon the very latest results of historical investigation will prefer it to any other. The chapters on Ireland and Cromwell's Parliaments are the best short accounts that we have of these subjects. The subsequent appearance of Mr. Gardiner's new volume gives us an opportunity to test parts of them by a very severe standard. They stand the test admirably. There is a chapter on Presbyterian and Independent and another on Cromwell's Colonial Policy which will be welcomed by teachers of American history for the use of their students. There are numerous illustrations and maps, two of which, the battle plans of Marston Moor and Dunbar, differ materially from those hitherto accepted. They are the results of investigations which Mr. Firth has described elsewhere.